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FLOOR DEBATE

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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. For debate on the advancement of LB 166, Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President, members of the body, I think Senator Carol Hudkins did a real good job of explaining the whole bill. I had LB 167, which is printed identical except the motorboat is in it, so we decided to come out of the committee with her bill, but I'm supportive of it, too, and so I wanted to stand in support of it. I've got several people that's wrote me a lot of letters that's been in support of it, too. I've got one here from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and they support the bill, and I've got several others that support the bill, too. And everybody thinks, well, we're doing this just because of federal funds. Well, I've...I've supported LaVon Crosby both times that she had it before and I think that that was the main reason that I introduced the bill, is because that I feel like it's going to save lives and that's the main reason I do it. A lot of people say, well, we got this law on the books; well, why don't we use it? But I...we had testimony the day of the hearing and I asked one person specifically; I said, how many cases have you convicted on a .10, and he said none. And I said, well, how come? Well, he said, there's always a little variation in the testing of it, so they don't do it. It's probably .11 or .12. So if we would lower it to .08, then there will be convictions at .10 and I think that's one of the...another one of the main reasons that I did it. But I'd like to read you a letter that came...some article that was in the Omaha World-Herald here that I think really kind of gives a good idea of somebody that's really been in the business for many years that understands it. It said the difference between .0... .10 and .08 is minimal when taking into account the variation in how the individual digests alcohol, said Allan Williams. He's the chief scientist of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in Arlington, Virginia. Nonetheless, Williams supports the change. After 25 years of studying the effect of alcohol...drivers, he said there is enough evidence to show that people are impaired at .08. I think it's the balance of this research and he says, I think it's time that...that we should lower it down. So I think that's pretty good testimony from a man that's been in the business for 25 years studying the